

REMARKS

Claims 1-69 are pending in the present patent application. The Examiner subjected claims 1-69 to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121. The Examiner states the following:

- I. Claims 2-21, 34-39, and 52-57, drawn to generating "caricature" and "graphical element representing a set of data", defined at page 9 f the specification, classified in class 345, subclass 839, User Interface: Icon, Imitating Real Life Object.
- II. Claims 22-32, drawn to displayable graphical element types corresponding to a selected display mode, classified in class 345, subclass 764, User Interface: Onscreen workspace or object.
- III. Claims 1, 33, 51, and 69, drawn to "freely movable graphical elements" and "freely movable user configurable text labels", classified in class 345, subclass 744, User Interface: Interface customization or edition.
- IV. Claims 40-42 and 58-60, drawn to creating hypermedia links and link activation areas, classified in class 707, subclass 501.1, Document Processing: Hypermedia.
- V. Claims 43-50 and 61-68, drawn to displaying graphical elements and highlighting specific graphical elements, classified in class 707, subclass 530, Document Processing: Edit, composition, or storage control.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions I-V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as generating icons that have an appearance that reminds the user of the data or application that they represent. Invention II has separate utility such as selecting a display mode to determine what type of user interface elements are available on the user interface. Invention III has separate utility such as general user interface customization, including repositioning elements for suiting an individual's personal preference. Invention IV has separate utility such as generating hot spots and creating hyperlinks. Invention V has separate utility such as displaying results of searching for data. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant hereby elects Invention IV as disclosed by claims 40-42 and 58-60. Applicant further reserves the right to prosecute the other inventions.

Respectfully submitted,

THE HECKER LAW GROUP

Date: 12/31/01

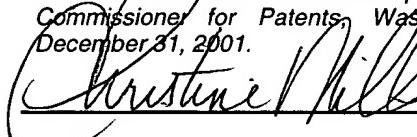
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Signature: Christine Mills Date: December 31, 2001